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# Why Do Episodic Volunteers Stay in FLOSS Communities? (Appendix)

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## I. SURVEY

This is an appendix to our paper “Why Do Episodic Volunteers Stay in FLOSS Communities?”, which was published in the proceedings of the 41st International Conference on Software Engineering [1]. The questions in the survey are reproduced in Table I. Items marked with an asterisk (\*) are reverse-coded, while those marked with a dagger (†) were optional. Participants who did not enter a number greater than one to questions *exp1* and *exp3* were not given the opportunity to proceed beyond the *Volunteering experience* section. Instructions were given as follows:

The following questions are used to understand your volunteering habits, which means any type of unpaid activity, including: documentation, translation, bug reports, mentoring, programming, or any other activity you do for an open source project.

For this survey we use the following definitions:

*Habitual volunteering:*

you contributed frequently (10 or more substantial contributions)

**OR**

you made 2 or more contributions of any size per month, for 6 consecutive months.

If your volunteering is not habitual, we refer to your volunteering as “*episodic*”.

## II. PROMOTION

The survey was promoted in person at the following events:

- The European Perl Conference (Romania)
- Amsterdam Perl Mongers meeting (Netherlands)
- Limerick Open Source meeting (Ireland)
- Mozfest (UK)
- T-DOSE (Netherlands)
- London Perl Workshop (UK)
- FOSDEM (Belgium)
- DjangoCon (Italy)

The survey was promoted on the following media outlets:

- ONOS mailing list
- OpenCord mailing list

- Twitter (4 accounts)
- Personal Facebook pages (3 accounts)
- Codeable
- Email to FOSDEM volunteers
- #fosdem-volunteers IRC
- Email to Gnash contributors
- ResearchGate
- LinkedIn
- CMX Hub Facebook group
- Debian forums
- Reddit /r/opensource
- Reddit /r/linux
- Debian Spanish user’s blog

The researchers were assisted in promoting the survey by seven FLOSS contributors and Bitergia.

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## REFERENCES

- [1] A. Barcomb, K.-J. Stol, B. Fitzgerald, and D. Riehle, “Why do episodic volunteers stay in FLOSS communities?” in *41st International Conference on Software Engineering*, 2019.

TABLE I  
QUESTIONNAIRE

| Code                                    | Item   |
|---|--|
| <i>Volunteering experience</i>          |  |
| exp1                                    | How many free/libre/open source software projects have you volunteered for in the last 12 months?  |
| exp2                                    | In how many free/libre/open source software projects have you clearly been a habitual volunteer in the last 12 months?   |
| exp3                                    | In how many free/libre/open source software projects have you clearly been an episodic volunteer in the last 12 months?  |
| exp4                                    | Please name one free/libre/open source software community which you have volunteered episodically for in the last 12 months.<br>The rest of the survey will pertain to your experiences in this community. |
| exp5                                    | Please select the area where your main contributions are: {both; code, programming; other contributions (documentation, translation, tests, artwork...)}   |
| exp6                                    | In which year did you first contribute to the community?   |
| exp7                                    | On average, how many hours per month did you volunteer to this project over the last 12 months?  |
| <i>Contributor benefit motives</i>      |  |
| cbm1                                    | I want to be recognized for my contributions.  |
| cbm2                                    | I want to receive a tangible acknowledgement of my contributions.  |
| cbm3                                    | I volunteer to get a reputation in the free/open source developers' scene.   |
| cbm4                                    | I volunteer to improve my job opportunities.   |
| cbm5                                    | I volunteer to make money.   |
| cbm6                                    | I volunteer to learn and develop new skills.   |
| <i>Social norms</i>                     |  |
| sn1                                     | Many people think of me in terms of being a volunteer.   |
| sn2                                     | Other people think that volunteering is important to me.   |
| sn3                                     | It is important to my friends and relatives that I continue volunteering.  |
| sn4                                     | It really wouldn't matter to most people I know if I decided to give up volunteering. *  |
| sn5                                     | Many of the people I know are not aware that I am a free/open source software volunteer. *   |
| sn6                                     | Many of the people that I know expect me to continue as a volunteer.   |
| sn7                                     | No one would really be surprised if I just stopped volunteering. *   |
| sn8                                     | Many people would probably be disappointed in me if I just decided to stop volunteering.   |
| <i>Psychological sense of community</i> |  |
| psc1                                    | I am quite similar to most people in my community.   |
| psc2                                    | If I feel like talking, I can generally find someone in the community to talk to right away.   |
| psc3                                    | If there was a serious problem in the community, the people could get together to solve it.  |
| <i>Satisfaction</i>                     |  |
| s1                                      | I enjoy my volunteer experience.   |
| s2                                      | My volunteer experience is personally fulfilling.  |
| s3                                      | My volunteer experience is worthwhile.   |
| s4                                      | My contributions to the project are important.   |
| s5                                      | I accomplish 'good' through my work.   |
| s6                                      | I am likely to continue to volunteer for this project.   |
| <i>Community commitment</i>             |  |
| cc1                                     | I talk up this community to my friends.  |
| cc2                                     | I feel very little loyalty to this community. *  |
| cc3                                     | I find that my values and the community's values are very similar.   |
| cc4                                     | I am proud to tell others that I am a part of this community.  |
| cc5                                     | I could just as well be working for another community as long as the type of work were similar. *  |
| cc6                                     | It would take very little change in my present circumstances to cause me to leave the community. *   |
| cc7                                     | There's not too much to be gained by sticking with this community indefinitely. *  |
| cc8                                     | I really care about the fate of this community.  |
| cc9                                     | For me this is the best of all possible communities to participate in.   |
| <i>Intention to remain</i>              |  |
| ir1                                     | I plan to volunteer for this community in the future.  |
| ir2                                     | I will recommend that others volunteer for this community.   |
| ir3                                     | I will tell others about the positive experiences that I had volunteering for this community.  |
| ir4                                     | I hope that volunteering is a part of my life for years to come.   |
| ir5                                     | I would recommend that other people volunteer for free/open source software communities.   |
| ir6                                     | Other people should be encouraged to volunteer.  |
| ir7                                     | I am more motivated to volunteer because of my recent volunteer experience with this community.  |
| ir8                                     | I care about the community for which I volunteer.  |
| <i>Demographics</i>                     |  |
| dem1                                    | What is your year of birth? †  |
| dem2                                    | Which of the following describes how you think of yourself? † {male; female; other}  |
| dem3                                    | What is your highest education level? † {university/college; technical/trade; high school; primary school}   |